

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RETIRING CHAU-
TAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
MARK THOMAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight years, Chautauqua County government has been led by one of the singularly intelligent, committed and respected public officials in New York State. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to honor Mark Thomas, whose service as Chautauqua County Executive will be concluded on December 31, 2005.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Thomas traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Mark is the type of person who leaves a lasting impact on his community. For many years, as a candidate and as an elected leader, Mark's efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a permanent impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Mr. Thomas uncovered during his campaign and during his tenure.

A true testimony to Mark can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. His campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Mark; he is a truly dedicated and determined person.

As a state legislator from 1998 to 2004, I knew Mark Thomas well. Quietly, without a lot of fanfare, Mark Thomas trudged the halls in Albany working diligently for the reform of the Medicaid program, which has threatened to cripple county governments throughout New York State. In 2004, New York State began what is hoped to be a long process of providing Medicaid relief to local governments. No elected leader in New York State is more responsible for that success than is Mark Thomas.

I had the opportunity to get to know Mark even better in 2004, when we competed against one another in a primary election for the Democratic Party's nomination for this congressional seat. Throughout that campaign, I always said that if I couldn't win, I wanted Mark Thomas to win, because Mark is a true believer, someone who believes that government is in place to help people, and to help make one's area a better place to live, work and raise a family. During that campaign, I was consistently amazed at the level of respect that the people of Chautauqua County had for him. During my first year in Congress, Mark and I have worked together closely on a

number of projects important to Chautauqua County, and my respect for him, his dear wife Elaine and his family only continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Mark Thomas. Mark has shown me the way in Chautauqua County, and I will forever be grateful to him for that gift.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mark Thomas is one of those people and that is why I rise to honor him and his service to this community.

HONORING THE GOVERNMENT
STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH
YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Government Street Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 175th year.

Government Street Presbyterian Church has been a vital partner of the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama. The church was founded in 1831, and the present sanctuary was built in 1836. For 166 years, this congregation has been worshipping God from the same location. Designated a National Landmark, the oldest sanctuary in Mobile is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

True to its mission to glorify God, the congregation of the Government Street Presbyterian Church uses its resources and opportunities to provide hope, comfort, instruction, and inspiration to all people so that they may become followers of Jesus Christ.

For the past twenty years, the Government Street Presbyterian Church has lovingly served the people of Mobile through its Coffee Club and Meals on Wheels, providing 35,000 meals annually to the homeless and poor. Members are also actively involved through urban ministries, international ministries, Baytreat ministries, worship, education, and fellowship.

It is my sincere hope that the Government Street Presbyterian Church will continue to be such a source of inspiration, hope, and comfort to Mobilians for another 175 years, and I rise today to salute this congregation and the many contributions they have made toward the betterment of south Alabama.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE OF
EDWARD E. NICHOLS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Edward E.

Nichols of Purcellville, Virginia, who has served the town of Purcellville in some capacity for the last 55 years. During his dedicated service to the people of Purcellville and Loudoun County, Mr. Nichols served 20 years on the Purcellville Town Council, 8 years on the Planning Commission, 5 years on the Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as on numerous other advisory committees.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Nichols' contributions to the Purcellville community. Mr. Nichols's father opened "Nichols Hardware" which has been in business for 91 years. Even today Ed's son Ted is part-owner of the family business. Mr. Nichols and his wife Meg have raised two sons, one daughter, and are the proud grandparents of seven and also have one great granddaughter. Mr. Nichols should be commended on raising an exceptional family while continually remaining actively involved in his community. Today, at 86 years-old, Mr. Nichols continues to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and shows tremendous passion for serving the people of Purcellville.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
LUCAS SCOTT WAGNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Matt and Kate Wagner of Columbus, Georgia, on the birth of their new baby son. Lucas Scott Wagner was born on December 15, 2005 at 1:29 PM, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Luke has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING KEN LASKER FOR HIS
CAMPAIGN TO BECOME CHAU-
TAUQUA COUNTY DISTRICT AT-
TORNEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Lasker, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the Chautauqua County District Attorney.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Lasker traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Ken is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years, both as a candidate or as an attorney at the law firm, Burgett and Robbins, his efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Mr. Lasker uncovered during his campaign.

A true testimony to Ken can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. His campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Ken, he is a truly dedicated and determined person.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ken is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I would vote to put the House on record as opposed to torture of prisoners held by the U.S. government.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING MS. OLGA WAGNER'S VOLUNTEER WORK AT OVERLEA-FULLERTON SENIOR CENTER

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Ms. Olga Wagner for her superior volunteer work at the Overlea-Fullerton Senior Center in Baltimore, Maryland. She has been a loyal aide to the center for close to thirty years; brightening the days of many seniors with her "four hugs a day" rule: a rule in which she must hug at minimum, four people everyday.

Ms. Wagner donates her time on Mondays and Fridays with the federally sponsored, 'Eating Together' lunch by preparing food and serving meals. She also contributes to the community by cashing-in bingo cards during games.

The Overlea-Fullerton Senior Center is a place for seniors, sixty and over, to gather taking advantage of activities and services such as line dancing, ceramics, painting, aerobics and much more. It is one of eighteen nationally accredited senior centers operated by the Baltimore County Department of Aging.

Because of the dependability Ms. Wagner has shown over the years, she was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on the twenty seventh of October, two-thousand five. Inductees are recognized statewide for their substantial volunteer work which ultimately

benefits the community at large. Ms. Wagner's dedication to improving the lives of seniors in her community is commendable and is a true testament to her character.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise before you today to recognize the good deeds of Ms. Olga Wagner. Her contribution to seniors in the Overlea-Fullerton community is greatly appreciated and worthy of great praise.

HONORING SCOTT TUCKER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to recognize Scott Tucker for his leadership and extraordinary service to the City of San Francisco as he prepares to step down as District Manager of Customer Service and Sales of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Throughout his distinguished career with the Postal Service, he proved the San Francisco District leads the nation in postal quality control systems and customer service.

Scott joined the Postal Service in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California, and will bring his career to a close in January 2006. He was appointed District Manager in 1992, and has since earned the Postmaster General Award, the second highest award given to postal executives.

A business administration student at College of Sequoias, Sonoma State, Fresno State and Dartmouth College in Massachusetts, Scott used his education everyday supervising a workforce of 10,400 employees. Scott's career is a shining example of excellence in commitment and service.

Throughout his 23 years as District Manager, Scott worked to raise awareness of the multi-cultural groups within our District by establishing a Women's Council, an African American Council, an Asian American/Pacific Island Council and a Hispanic Council. These efforts earned him the Diversity Achievement Award from the Bay Area Federal Executive Board.

With the daunting responsibility of delivering 10 million pieces of mail to three million customers daily throughout northwest California, Scott was largely responsible for our City's reputation as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. Scott was generous with his time and expertise to assist my District Office staff with constituent concerns.

Scott was instrumental in making the Lunar New Year commemorative stamp series a reality. His close partnership with San Francisco's Asian American community helped produce a spectacular series of stamps for our City to take pride in, and for the rest of the nation to admire and enjoy. As Executive Chair of United Way's Combined Federal Campaign in the Bay Area for two years, Scott was honored for his leadership and tremendous success.

Scott's leadership and dedication remain an inspiration to all who knew and admired him. I join his friends and colleagues in sending best wishes for a well-deserved retirement and many years of health and happiness.

HONORING LORI CORNELL FOR HER CAMPAIGN TO BECOME CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CLERK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lori Cornell, a resident of Chautauqua County for her quest to become the Chautauqua County Clerk.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Cornell traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Lori is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years, both as a candidate or as the District Director for Assemblyman Bill Parment, her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were and still are a staple in Chautauqua County. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work and issues that Ms. Cornell uncovered during her campaign.

A true testimony to Lori can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. Her campaign was full of energy and enthusiasm. I have no doubt that good things are still to come from Lori, she is a truly dedicated and determined person.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Lori is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM W. WYNNE, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. William W. Wynne, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement after serving south Alabama for nearly 30 years. I also rise to congratulate him on his appointment to the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

A Mobile native, Mr. Wynne has served as a U.S. Probation Officer for the Southern District of Alabama, a district encompassing 13 counties in southwest Alabama, since 1976. He has served as the district's Chief U.S. Probation Officer since 1988. A nationally recognized leader, Mr. Wynne has overseen the district's advances in court management and automation. His tireless work led to the development of the Internal Operating Policy on Disposition of Criminal Cases in his district.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Mr. Wynne also found time to serve on a number of national committees: the Automation and Technology Users' Group; the Probation and Pretrial Services Case Management and Statistics Umbrella Group; the Ad Hoc Task Force on Allotment Simplification; the committee on the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System; the Electronic Public Access Working Group; the Chiefs' Advisory Group; the District Court Advisory Group; the Budget and Finance Advisory Group; and the Law Enforcement Formula Group.

Mr. Wynne is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of law enforcement. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on this remarkable achievement. I know Bill's colleagues, his wife Laura, his family, and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

ALLISON BIGGS—2005 PAMELA
HARRIMAN FOREIGN SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize and commend my constituent, Ms. Allison Biggs of Front Royal, Virginia, upon being selected as one of three recipients of the 2005 Pamela Harriman Foreign Service Fellowship. In 1999 the College of William and Mary in Virginia, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, established the Fellowship program to encourage top students to pursue careers in public service.

The fellowships are offered to three outstanding undergraduates from across the nation. Ms. Biggs, a senior at William and Mary, is an accomplished student and community leader. She was accepted for a highly competitive internship in the State Department's Office of Policy Planning, working on non-proliferation and arms control issues.

Now more than ever, as a nation we need to do everything we can to encourage our best and brightest young people to explore the call of public service, especially in serving our international interests. The Harriman Foreign Service Fellowship program will help Ms. Biggs gain invaluable work experience, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Allison for receiving this outstanding recognition.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
COLE CHANDLER SWANSON
CONATSER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Elizabeth and Blake Conatser of Washington, DC, on

the birth of their new baby son. Cole Chandler Swanson Conatser was born on November 20, 2005 at 2:51 p.m., weighing 9 pounds and measuring 20.5 inches long. Cole has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING RETIRING EDEN TOWN COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY WALKER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 2005, a dedicated public servant will end his years of service as a member of the Eden Town Board. That day will be the last day of Councilman Tim Walker's service, and I want to take a moment to commemorate his service here today.

Tim Walker is a solid public official whose dedication both to his constituents as well as to the law is inspiring. With more than fifteen years of private sector legal experience, and after a stint as Eden Town Prosecutor, Tim Walker has concurrently served as a member of the Eden Town Board and as a member of that town's school board. Tim's service has been exemplary, as Eden has crept ever so slowly from its status as a very rural town to its status today, as a featured destination for many who seek to escape the hustle and bustle of city or first ring suburban life. Many people do this because Eden is a great place to live and raise a family; it is that way because of dedicated public servants like Tim Walker.

Tim Walker leaves the Eden Town Board because he chose to run for judicial office. Though unsuccessful in that run, many local residents are hopeful that Tim will remain an active member of the local community, and indeed, there is no reason to assume that he will not. Tim Walker is a fine public servant, and I am proud to honor him here today.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of Tim Walker, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Walker the House's best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 629, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ADOPTION ANGELS,
WILLIAM AND MARGURITE
ADDISON

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to bring before the House of Rep-

resentatives a couple who made the selfless commitment of improving the lives of five children from Maryland's foster care system. I rise before you today to recognize the generosity of Adoption Angels, William and Margurite Addison.

In the year nineteen hundred ninety-eight, the Pikesville couple officially adopted one of their nephews, Ralph, who would be the first of five children to find a permanent home with them. Between the years of nineteen hundred ninety-nine and two thousand four they opened their home to Malik, Kevin, Warren, and Bryleigh who range in ages from three to nine.

Mr. Addison works in Rockville, Maryland, at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents as an educator and administrator. The institute is a state-run facility for emotionally disabled young people. His wife, Mrs. Addison, formally worked as a truant officer for the Baltimore City Public School System. Together they have opened their hearts and their home to five children seeking a permanent, safe, and loving family.

As a result of their generosity, the Addisons are recipients of the Two Thousand Five Congressional Angels in Adoption Award, which recognized unsung heroes who have dedicated their lives to helping the future of our most vulnerable children.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you humbled and honored to recognize the kindness of these two individuals. Because of their humanity five children from Maryland's foster care system will be given an opportunity to experience true family life. By investing in our children, we invest in our future and make our community stronger. Please join with me to commend Mr. and Mrs. William Addison for their extraordinary kindheartedness.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TONY STEWART

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tony Stewart, winner of the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship.

On November 20, Mr. Stewart won his second NASCAR Championship, becoming only the second active driver to win multiple NASCAR championships.

Today we recognize this Hoosier who has placed himself among the greatest drivers in the storied history of American racing.

Tony Stewart's passion for the track began as a young boy racing go-karts in his hometown of Columbus, Indiana. His win at the national karting championship in 1987 was a springboard to the Indianapolis Racing League, and a sign of triumphs to come.

In 1999 Mr. Stewart joined the NASCAR circuit, where he has ranked in the top 10 every season since. 2005 marks his most successful year on tour, with a total of five first-place finishes.

In August, Mr. Stewart underscored his strong and deep roots in the Hoosier state by winning the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Today let us remember that Tony Stewart is respected by both fans and competitors not only for his racing prowess, but for his respect for and dedication to the sport of car racing.

I am proud to call Tony Stewart a fellow Hoosier, and I once again congratulate him on this remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING RETIRING HAMBURG
TOWN SUPERVISOR PATRICK H.
HOAK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and great pleasure to rise today to honor one of Western New York's premiere elected leaders, and someone who has given nearly twenty years of dedicated service to the residents and taxpayers of the town of Hamburg. I rise today to honor retiring Hamburg Town Supervisor Patrick H. Hoak.

Pat Hoak's love for government service was sparked by the example of his father, the late State Senator Bertrand H. Hoak. Through the years, Pat has served Hamburg as a community leader, a sports and youth league coach, a teacher and a longtime businessman. In 1987, however, he assumed more official duties in the town as a member of the Town Board.

First elected to the Town Board in 1987, Pat served as Councilman until his initial election as Town Supervisor in 1993. As Councilman, Pat put a great deal of focus on the expansion of recreational programs and facilities for town residents, including the expansion of the town's golf course.

Starting in 1992 and for thirteen years afterward, Pat Hoak presided over one of the most efficiently-run town governments in New York State.

As Supervisor, Pat's leadership resulted in the creation of nationally acclaimed programs for Senior Citizens. His administration resulted in an unprecedented level of cooperation between government and the private sector in quality of life issues, including combating drug addiction and family violence. Working with other dedicated town leaders, Pat helped turn the town of Hamburg into a model for town governments statewide, winning awards for fiscal responsibility and making Hamburg into a premiere suburban town for residents to live, work and raise a family.

The Hoak family has been very blessed over the years, and the family has given much back to the community it loves so dearly. For his nearly twenty years of public service and his many decades of community service, the town of Hamburg is better for the contributions made to it by Pat Hoak. We thank him for his service to our community, and wish Pat and his family all the best of good luck and God-speed in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOXLEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING
NAMED "STATE CHAMPION" BY
THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON
PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to congratulate

Loxley Elementary School on receiving the State Champion Award by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

The President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards program, available to the Nation's schools since 1966, offers presidential recognition and awards for fitness to all participating young people.

The State Champion award is presented annually to three schools in each state having the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test.

As a State Champion, Loxley Elementary School is a role model for other schools because of its dedication to helping students encourage physical activity and gain fitness skills along with an understanding of the health benefits of being regularly active. Encouraging adequate amounts of daily physical activity is an excellent way to instill healthy lifestyle habits at an early age.

The five assessments of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measure four components of physical fitness: a one-mile run/walk for heart and lung endurance; curl-ups for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pull-ups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Loxley Elementary School in Loxley, Alabama, for this honor. This school deserves public recognition and our appreciation for their concerted efforts to instill healthy lifestyle habits in the youth of south Alabama.

HONORING SSGT DANIEL CLAY,
USMC

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week I attended the funeral of SSgt Daniel Clay. Sergeant Clay was from my district and one of ten Marines killed by an IED in Fallujah, Iraq on December 1, 2005.

Dan's father, Bud Clay, shared with me a letter his son wrote to his loved ones before he was killed. Accompanying his son's letter was a letter Bud had written to President Bush. Mr. Clay asked me to take this to Congress and share with you so that we could all see Dan's final thoughts and wishes.

May God Bless SSgt Daniel Clay, his family, our veterans, our troops, and the United States of America.

MOM, DAD, KRISTIE, JODIE, KIMBERLY, ROBERT, KATY, RICHARD, AND MY LISA: Boy do I love each and every one of you. This letter being read means that I have been deemed worthy of being with Christ. With MaMa Jo, MaMa Clay, Jennifer . . . all those we have been without for our time during the race. This is not a bad thing. It is what we hope for. The secret it out. He lives and His promises are *real*! It is not faith that supports this . . . But fact and I now am a part of the promise. Here is notice! Wake up! All that we hope for is *Real*. Not a hope. But *Real*.

But here is something tangible. What we have done in Iraq is worth any sacrifice. Why? Because it was our duty. That sounds simple. But all of us have a duty. Duty is defined as a God given task. Without duty life is worthless. It holds no type of fulfillment.

The simple fact that our bodies are built for work has to lead us to the conclusion that God (who made us) put us together to do His work. His work is different for each of us. Mom, yours was to be the glue of our family, to be a pillar for those women (all women around you), Dad, yours was to train and build us (like a Platoon Sgt) to better serve Him. Kristie, Kim, Katy you are the five team leaders who support your Squad ldrs, Jodie, Robert and Richard. Lisa you too. You are my XO and you did a hell of a job. You all have your duties. Be thankful that God in His wisdom gives us work. Mine was to ensure that you did not have to experience what it takes to protect what we have as a family. This I am so thankful for. I know what honor is. It is not a word to be thrown around. It has been an Honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to. This is as close to Christ-like I can be. That emulation is where all honor lies. I thank you for making it worthwhile.

As a Marine this is not the last Chapter. I have the privilege of being one who has finished the race. I have been in the company of heroes. I now am counted among them. Never falter! Don't hesitate to honor and support those of us who have the honor of protecting that which is *worth* protecting.

Now here are my final wishes. Do not cry! To do so is to not realize what we have placed all our hope and faith in. We should not fear. We should not be sad. Be thankful. Be so thankful. All we hoped for is true. Celebrate! My race is over, my time in war zone is over. My trials are done. A short time separates all of us from His reality. So laugh. Enjoy the moments and your duty. God is wonderful.

I love each and every one of you.

Spread the word . . . Christ lives and He is *Real*.

SEMPER FIDELIS,

PENSACOLA, FL,
December 7, 2005.

President GEORGE BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: My name is Bud Clay. My son, SSgt Daniel Clay—USMC was killed last week, 12/01/05, in Iraq. He was one of the ten Marines killed by the IED in Fallujah.

Dan was a Christian—he knew Jesus as Lord and Savior—so we know where he is. In his final letter (one left with me for the family—to be read in case of his death) he says "if you are reading this, it means my race is over." He's home now—his and our real home.

I am writing to you—to tell you how proud and thankful we (his parents and family) are of you and what you are trying to do to protect us all. This was Dan's second tour in Iraq—he knew and said that his being there was to protect us.

I want to encourage you. I hear in your speeches about "staying the course". I also know that many are against you in this "war on Terror" and that you must get weary in the fight to do what is right. We and many others are praying for you to see this through—as Lincoln said, "that these might not have died in vain".

You have a heavy load—we are praying for you.

God bless you,

BUD CLAY.

CONGRATULATING TONY STEWART

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fellow Columbus, Indiana native Tony Stewart, not only for winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship this year, but also for consistency and determination to finish each race.

Before winning the 2002 Nextel Cup, Stewart declared, "If we're going to win the championship, then we need to have consistency . . . winning helps too, but consistency—front-running consistency is what it's all about."

Tony's racing legacy began at age seven, Tony started his career like many young aspiring auto racing drivers: behind the wheel of a go-kart. In 1983, when Tony was 12, he won his first championship.

In 1989, Stewart moved from go-karts to open wheelers, winning his first championship in the National Midget category in 1994; followed by the U.S. Auto Club's Triple Crown the very next year.

It was in 1997 that Stewart began his NASCAR career racing in both the Indy Racing League and a full Busch schedule with team owner Joe Gibbs.

By 1999, Stewart had taken the Winston Cup Racing Series by storm. That year the Indiana native debuted on the front-row of his first Daytona 500 and went on to score three more victories, more than any rookie driver in Winston Cup history. He also obtained two poles, 12 top-five finishes, and 21 top-10 finishes, snagging 1999 Rookie of the Year.

The hometown crowd was there this past August when Stewart, already a winner on short tracks, super-speedway and road course, capped an emotional day by clinching the Indianapolis Brickyard. And now, Stewart has out-duelled his rivals to take a second Nextel Cup title.

Congratulations, Tony. Just like 2002, you got the job done with consistency and determination that makes Hoosiers proud.

HONORING RETIRING BOSTON
TOWN COUNCILMAN KARL J.
SIMMETH**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a public official whose service as a member of the Boston Town Board has been honorable and whose dedication to his community has been steadfast. Today, I want to honor the service of Councilman Karl Simmeth.

Karl Simmeth served as a member of the Boston Town Board while his town continued to see growth and expansion, as more Western New Yorkers choose to live in towns beyond the first ring of Erie County's suburbs. The town of Boston is well-known as a great place to live and raise a family, and it is so, in no small measure, because of the dedicated service of public officials like Karl.

Karl took his work on the town board very seriously. Karl's areas of expertise included

committees and other town board functions involving street lighting, the town's Conservation Advisory Council, drainage and solid waste, and the oversight of South Boston Park. In short, Karl worked to deal with issues important to local residents.

Karl wears another hat in town, and that hat is political—he is Chairman of the town's Republican committee. Accordingly, when it comes to matters political, Karl and I were rarely on the same side of the fence. However, when it comes to his love for the town of Boston and for his work on its behalf, Karl always checked his politics at the door. His work was always professional and I am grateful to him for his advocacy on the town's behalf.

Mr. Speaker, when all is said and done, a public servant wants to leave government in better shape than when he or she came in; that is certainly the case here. The town of Boston is a better place for Karl Simmeth's service, and I am pleased and appreciative to have had the opportunity to recognize him here today.

CONGRATULATING MS. ANNA
BELLE NEWMAN ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER RETIREMENT**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Ms. Anna Belle Newman on the occasion of her retirement after serving Mobile County for 17 years.

Ms. Newman was elected to the position of general administrator of Mobile County in 1988, and she is currently the longest serving local Republican elected official in Mobile County. A ninth generation Mobilian, Ms. Newman is a graduate of Murphy High School. She attended both the University of Alabama and Spring Hill College.

In the midst of her professional schedule, Ms. Newman also finds time to serve the community. She is an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and the Friends of Mobile. She is a former founding member of the Mobile Art Patrons League and a former member of the Mobile County Republican Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Ms. Newman's colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of Mobile County and the First Congressional District.

FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this conference report and thank Mr. OBEY, Ranking Member of Appropriations Committee, for the time.

This morning I greeted hundreds of faith leaders on the steps of the Cannon building. They gathered from across the country to march together and pray together and to deliver a message to Congress. Their message was simple: the budget is a moral document and we have a moral obligation to ensure its priorities reflect our values.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask why aren't we listening to them?

Who better than faith leaders, who serve on the front lines, who feed the hungry, who clothe the naked, who house the homeless, to tell Congress about the impact of this immoral budget on our families and our communities?

They recognize that the priorities reflected in our budget are not a partisan issue, but an issue of who we are as a Nation, and what our values are.

We know that the Republican budget cuts and this conference report, which is a critical part of their budget, is nothing more than an assault on the least among us—and it does not reflect our values.

That is why I encourage my colleagues to vote with their values and let's defeat this bill just like we did a month ago.

Don't tell me we can't do better.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration touches us all, whether you live in a border state, such as Texas, or not. Millions of Americans pass through airports daily. Before they travel city to city or state to state, they have to show a valid i.d., remove their shoes, have their belongings examined, and walk through metal detectors. Meanwhile, thousands of illegal immigrants waltz across our borders, undetected, every day. America's failure to control its borders has cost us billions of dollars, and heightened the possibility of criminal and terrorist activity on our home soil.

It is time to prevent illegal immigration. The first step is taking control at the borders and holding people accountable. We can achieve this by passing legislation such as The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, this country has been enriched by foreigners who respect our laws and become citizens the proper way. We do not wish to deny others this opportunity. However, illegal immigration and disrespect for our laws

cannot be tolerated. We cannot secure this nation without securing its borders.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ALEX HUMEL MCCANN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Alex Humel McCann, cherished son, brother, grandson, cousin, nephew and friend to many, whose unexpected passing has saddened our entire community. Although he will be greatly missed, Alex's young life had a profound impact upon the lives of countless individuals, in Cleveland, Ohio and around the world, and his inner light will shine on forever.

When Alex was in kindergarten, he journeyed with his parents and brothers to Botswana, Africa, to participate in a three-year mission with Habitat for Humanity International. In his 17 young years, Alex traveled to 17 countries and 5 continents. With an open heart, Alex absorbed the colorful offerings of every new culture and developed a profound sensitivity to human injustices and struggles that exist around the world.

An independent thinker and adventurous soul, Alex's passion and joy for life paralleled his passion for helping others. As a student at St. Edward High School, Alex was an active member with the Council on Human Relations, the Free Thought Society and his most cherished activity, the St. Edward Wilderness Retreat Program. His diagnosis of epilepsy at age thirteen did not lessen his enthusiasm and energy for living. He was an avid cyclist, golfer, hiker, and camper. He was a talented young actor who graced the stages of the Beck Center, St. Ed's and St. Joseph Academy. His energy and talent were consistently matched by his unique sense of humor, quick smile and kind heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Alex Humel McCann. I extend my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Joyce Humel and Michael McCann; his brothers, Nick and Aaron; his extended family members and many friends. Alex Humel McCann's young life reflected limitless joy and love and he will live forever in the hearts and memories of those who loved him most—his family and friends—from Cleveland, Ohio to Botswana, Africa, and he will never be forgotten.

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD
TOWN SUPERVISOR MARK
STEFFAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man whose years of service, both as a councilman, and for the last four years as Supervisor of the town of Concord, have served his town admirably. Today, I want to honor retiring Concord Town Supervisor Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan is someone who loved his town with every fiber of his being. A successful businessman, Mark was elected to the Concord Town Board and his recent service as Supervisor has come at a time when more people in Erie County and Western New York look to the town of Concord and its incorporated village of Springville as an outstanding place to live, work and raise a family. It is that way because of the dedicated service of public officials like Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan and his family are moving on with a planned move out of Western New York. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend Mark Steffan for his service to the residents and the taxpayers of the town of Concord, and remind him that local residents are better for the service he provided to town government.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
VICTOR A. MCSWAIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Victor A. McSwain was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Mr. McSwain began his 44 year career with the city of Mobile in his late teens. After serving in various positions, he worked his way up to the position of traffic engineer—a position he held for 17 years before becoming Mobile's director of transportation. Mr. McSwain worked for the city while obtaining two college degrees—a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in civil engineering from Penn State University.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. McSwain also found time to serve in many community organizations. He served on both the city's Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. McSwain was a past president of the University of South Alabama Alumni Association, the Crichton Optimist Club, and the Order of the Inca, a local Mardi Gras Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Mr. McSwain will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 42 years, Barbara McSwain; his children, Angel Odom and Yvette Jones; and four grandchildren, Justin and Kyle Odom and Kelsey and Melody Jones—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DORA BAKOYANNIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Ath-

ens, Greece, who was chosen to receive the 2005 World Mayor Award. This recognition is part of the World Mayor Project, which aims to bring greater attention to mayors who have well served their own communities as well as other national and international cities.

The World Mayor Project was launched in January of 2004 by City Mayors, an internet based platform designed to raise awareness about issues facing the world's cities. City Mayors was created by a group of economists and journalists from Europe, the Americas and Asia in April of 2003. From January to October of 2005, over 87,000 people worldwide voted in the annual internet based. World Mayor contest.

After being elected in 2003, Mayor Bakoyannis had the great challenge of preparing the historic city of Athens to host the 2004 summer Olympic Games. Due to her outstanding leadership, Athens rose magnificently to the challenge and demonstrated the pride and honor that comes with hosting the biggest sporting event in the world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dora Bakoyannis whose work has not only brought physical transformation to Athens, but also a renewed sense of national pride for her citizens which reflects true leadership. We wish her continued success as she works to enhance the quality of life for all Athenians.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
URGING THE OBSERVANCE OF
GLOBAL FAMILY DAY OF PEACE
AND SHARING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution calling for the observance of Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing.

Everyone in this body is concerned with finding a way to achieve peace. Peace in Iraq, peace in every corner of the world. Many of us have widely divergent views about how to achieve that peace—but I am confident—we all want peace.

We all have families back home who are longing for peace in the world and an end to the suffering caused by poverty, disease and hunger. Our friends, our neighbors, our parents and our children, all are hoping that this holiday season can bring more understanding, more generosity, more genuine friendship and caring among people of all faiths and cultures.

Perhaps we can't agree on military strategies, or budgets. Perhaps we will remain at odds on many matters when we come back after the holiday recess. But there's one matter on which the Congress agreed in 2000 and which I believe a unanimous Congress can agree upon now.

Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a concurrent resolution which calls upon all Americans to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing every January 1st. It asks that we use the first day of every year as a time to reach out to others in the spirit of peace, to share a meal, to help the needy at home and around the world.

This is a matter that once agreed on by Congress, can lead to greater understanding

and cooperation among political parties, faith groups, people of different races and economic class. In other words, it's something that can help us all—and that positive effect can begin during this holiday season.

In the year 2000, the Congress adopted a similar resolution asking the president to issue an annual proclamation recognizing this special day, and in 2001, following the tragedy of 9/11, the United Nations General Assembly followed suit. Heads of state in more than 20 countries have personally endorsed the initiative. However, there is little public knowledge that this important tool for peace already exists. Members of Congress can remedy that.

We all know how powerful an influence holidays have in our lives. Our earliest memories are often of family gatherings at Thanksgiving, or parades on the Fourth of July. Holidays teach us about the beliefs that our families hold, they inspire us, they reunite us and remind us annually about the ways in which we ought to behave.

As we approach the 20th anniversary next year of our national celebration of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, I ask that the Congress take the time to ratify once again its recommendation that our increasingly interdependent world celebrate each year with a holiday of peace and sharing that belongs equally to all our human family.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are troubled by our deteriorating image in the world, by the growing disputes among our elected leaders, by the dangers of terrorism and by the suffering of others, both at home and abroad. Yet they feel helpless to do anything about it.

Global Family Day provides a way in which every man, woman and child in the United States can help to reduce suffering at home, repair our damaged image abroad, and help us remember that in the end, all peoples belong to the same family.

I urge immediate action on this resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK'S TEAM TENNIS FOR WINNING ITS THIRD STRAIGHT TEXAS CLASS 4A DIVISION I HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Highland Park Scots Tennis Team for winning its third straight State Championship. On Saturday, November 5th, the Scots defeated New Braunfels High School 10-3 for the title.

This program and its coach have shown an incredible amount of character since losing to San Antonio Alamo Heights in the 2002 state finals. They have not lost a single match since then, winning a state record seventy straight team matches.

The team of twenty-five varsity players (thirteen boys and twelve girls) is so filled with talent that Head Coach Dan Holden had reserve players who are nationally ranked on the sidelines, a testament to the depth of this team. Coach Holden has not only prepared his players for the championship match, however; he has also helped them to seek higher education. This two-pronged approach to coach-

ing is what Coach Holden calls his "Win-Win" strategy. He kept practices shorter than normal so that the players could have time to work with their personal coaches to improve their abilities for U.S. Tennis Association Tournaments. These tournaments provide excellent recruiting opportunities for college scouts, in turn providing the exposure necessary for the players to impress scouts in the hopes of earning a college scholarship.

Proof of his success is evident. For example, Tyler Taransky, a senior at Highland Park, came back to Highland Park for his last year after a brief foray into the world of full-time competitive tennis and home schooling. As a result, he helped to lead his team to victory one last time before enrolling at Texas A&M, where he will play tennis next fall for the Aggies.

For his efforts, the United States Professional Tennis Association named Coach Holden the 2004 National High School Coach of the Year. He was also honored as the Dallas Morning News' 2004 All-Area Tennis Coach of the Year.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Coach Dan Holden and the Highland Park Scots' Team Tennis on their outstanding achievement. Their competitive spirit and domination in their field are truly inspirational.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly I rise to oppose a bill which has a number of provisions I support and others which I might have been inclined to back in a different economic and historical context. But this Congress jeopardizes America's fiscal house as it continues to "pay" for a war with tax cuts. This is, after all, the first time in our history—and perhaps the history of the world—in which a government has sent soldiers into combat at the same time it has reduced the public's tax burden. And just as war cannot be paid for with tax cuts, social balance cannot be maintained if the costs of rebuilding one region of the country devastated by hurricanes are coupled with the reduction of support for needy citizens in other areas.

I am an advocate of tax simplification—the replacement of a deduction-centric tax code with a simplified lower rate system. But I have doubts about taking the radical step of eliminating social progressivity with a flat, single-rate tax. The complexity of the current system is the result of a myriad of tax rules, not the fact that rates are slightly staggered. What has been missed in today's debate is that the taxation of dividend income at substantially lower levels than earned income means that the working middle class will be taxed at much steeper rates than upper-income citizens. The approach on the table today will not only eliminate tax progressivity, it will create an inverted tax system, one that is profoundly regressive.

No tax system can stand the test of common sense if a high school principal, elec-

trician, or registered nurse are taxed at a higher rate than a billionaire who receives his income from dividends. Yes, there is an argument that taxing dividend income may, in some cases, represent "double" taxation, but this concern is not as compelling as many assume because the deduction-oriented tax codes allow many large companies to have negligible income tax liabilities. This is why, according to a University of Michigan study, many of America's largest estates have been subjected to surprisingly little, if any, taxation in the accumulating years.

Priorities are askew. When Congress attempts to cover the cost of man-made wars and nature-made hurricanes while expanding tax breaks that disproportionately benefit higher income individuals, it is forced to limit spending on programs for low-income students and our needier citizens to keep the fiscal deficit from skyrocketing.

As long as this war continues, Congress is obligated to keep its eye not only on fiscal responsibility, but social justice. If it does not pay attention to fairness, the kind of internal strife that has broken out in recent weeks in France and the kind of internal division which was evidenced in the wake of Katrina in New Orleans will be magnified at great social cost.

A thriftier government may be a credible goal, but Congress is obligated to pay for whatever commitments it makes. I did not vote for the Iraq war primarily because of policy rather than expense concerns. But there is a cost dimension and the burden of responsibility for funding public commitments falls at this time particularly on those who chose to authorize this war. Failure to accept this responsibility weighs down the public balance sheet and pushes payment of debt obligations to future generations.

Accordingly, I am compelled to register my opposition to the fiscal irresponsibility implicit in this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHESTER DEVENOW

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute today to Mr. Chester Devenow, an Ohio business and civic leader whose recent loss our community has sustained. Regarded as a "titan of industry," Chester Devenow always took on broader missions to those beyond his board and firm. He located Sheller Globe's headquarters in the heart of our community to strengthen it economically, and struck labor agreements with its employees that helped build our region's middle class. He was highly regarded for his philanthropy and contributions to the institutions of our community.

His business acumen enabled him to create a Fortune 500 company, and he was truly a leader in industry. In his later career, his skills were often utilized in the mediation of labor-management disputes. Even after a well-earned retirement, Chester Devenow's abilities remained valuable to area business leaders. His knowledge and institutional memory were well-regarded by his peers.

Upon graduation from high school in Detroit, he studied music at the Julliard School. A

decorated veteran, Chester Devenow received a degree in political science from New York University and attended Harvard Law School.

President Theodore Roosevelt noted "We demand that big business give the people a square deal; in return we must insist that when anyone engaged in big business honestly endeavors to do right he shall himself be given a square deal." Chester Devenow earned this distinction among the industry's titans.

We offer our sympathy to Maudette, loving wife of 27 years; his brother Leonard; sons Mark and Jeffrey; daughter Susie; stepchildren William and Abigail Schachner; his six grandchildren; and his numerous friends. May they find some small peace as Chester Devenow joins his daughter Sara and the Creator of us all.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor Mr. Robert Thomas, the City of Sacramento's City Manager, who is retiring this week from a distinguished career of public service. As his friends, family and co-workers all gather to celebrate his career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

Mr. Thomas began his career in Sacramento with the North Highlands Recreation and Park District and later worked with the County of Sacramento, Southgate Recreation and Park District and City of Santa Cruz. At each step of his career Bob eagerly took on increased responsibilities for the recreational facilities that make Sacramento and California such a wonderful place to live.

In 1981, he returned to Sacramento as the Director of Parks and Community Services. For ten years Bob headed the department, managing over 600 employees and hundreds of volunteers. Under his direction the department increased revenue, grant funding and accomplished many important projects, including an expansion of the Crocker Art Museum.

Recognizing his management abilities, Bob was appointed Deputy City Manager in 1991, and he served in that position until being named Sacramento County's Executive in 1996. While with the County, he implemented the Board of Supervisors' policies and was ultimately responsible for managing over ten thousand employees and an annual budget of 1.4 billion dollars. Among the long list of achievements with the County, he was able to effectively reorganize the Economic Development Program and helped implement reuse plans at McClellan and Mather Air Force Bases, both of which were shut down.

From 1999 until the present day, the people of Sacramento have been incredibly fortunate to have Mr. Thomas serve as Sacramento's City Manager. He has been an effective leader, working with the City Council on many issues of great importance. These include flood control projects, major transportation upgrades across the city and managing the development of many new neighborhoods. In recognition of his superb work, Mr. Thomas was named Public Administrator of the Year in

2005 by the American Society for Public Administration.

Bob was also an active member of the California National Guard 175th Medical Brigade until his retirement from the Guard this year. Given his extensive background in municipal government, work with the California National Guard and decades spent living in Sacramento, I was always confident that Sacramento was being taken care of with Bob Thomas at the helm, as was my late husband Congressman Robert Matsui.

Whether it has been with the California National Guard, County of Sacramento, or with the City of Sacramento, Bob Thomas has left a legacy of successful public management and service that will be hard to match. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Bob Thomas for his public service and to wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WILSON

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jack Wilson, a prominent real estate developer, who helped the Tampa Bay area evolve into the vibrant, bustling community it is today.

Born in Royston, Georgia, Jack earned his bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and his master's degree from Harvard Business School. He came to Tampa in the 1970's as Florida president of the Landmarks Group, but soon he was developing important projects through his own company, the Wilson Co.

Jack rapidly put his mark on Tampa. The cofounder and first president of the Westshore Alliance, Jack helped turn this area around and make Westshore a hub of business activity. Jack also worked on revitalizing Tampa's downtown, renovating the Franklin Exchange and a number of office towers. Thousands of Tampa Bay residents have come to know Jack's projects—whether they work in Bayport Plaza or Cypress Center, have visited the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, or reside in one of the thousands of affordable rental housing units that Jack built.

Tampa's sports fans owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jack as well. He supervised the construction of the New York Yankees Legends Field, helped secure public funding for Raymond James Stadium and headed up the task force that brought Super Bowl XXXV to Tampa.

But Jack was always focused on more than just building his business. He also cared deeply about building up his community, and it showed in the quality of his work, the foresight in his development plans and the attention he paid to the impact of his projects on the environment. In fact, Jack was the first developer to receive an award from the Tampa Audubon Society.

Jack served Tampa's business community as well, working as chairman of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Partnership and volunteering his time for a long list of other business and chari-

table organizations. In 2001, he was inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame.

Those who had the privilege of getting to know Jack will remember his generosity, his Southern charm, his thoughtfulness and his constant willingness to help others. There is no doubt about it—Jack had an enormous amount of class. On behalf of the residents of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Jack's family. His legacy will live on not only in the structures he built but in the community he improved.

CFTC REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concerns with Title II of H.R. 4473, which reauthorizes the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA). When the CEA was previously reauthorized in 2000, changes were made that brought much needed legal clarity to over-the-counter derivatives and foreign currency markets. In the same legislation, the regulatory structure of U.S. futures exchanges was enhanced, providing a more flexible approach to the oversight of complex financial instruments. Together, these two developments provided a structure that has promoted the depth and breadth of U.S. capital markets throughout the world. Such vibrancy of U.S. capital markets is critical to creating new jobs, building wealth, and attracting investment.

While the reauthorization of the CEA is essential to the efficient functioning of our Nation's capital markets, I am concerned that title II of H.R. 4473—while well intentioned—may disrupt the balance created through the reauthorization of the CEA in 2000. Title II of H.R. 4473 provides the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) with expansive new powers that may be interpreted as applying the CEA to over-the-counter natural gas contracts. Doing so may jeopardize the legal certainty of certain natural gas contracts, potentially undermining the efficiency and robustness of the very markets that proponents of Title II are seeking to promote. The Federal Reserve and the Department of Treasury have raised similar concerns about this legislation.

In addition, other concerns have been expressed about H.R. 4473. Section 201 provides the CFTC with new market surveillance powers, which require the CFTC to investigate any highly unusual price changes in futures contracts for natural gas. Such new powers may not be the most appropriate policy response to address widely fluctuating natural gas prices. The Federal Reserve has noted that wide swings in natural gas prices are not a result of weak regulation, but rather due to supply and demand imbalances related to insufficient infrastructure necessary to produce and transport the underlying commodity. Further, section 202 imposes new position reporting standards on holders of natural gas futures or options contracts, requiring that records of such contracts be maintained for five years and provided to the CFTC as their request. These new requirements are not without costs, which could be significant and may be

passed on to homeowners and businesses. As a result, this provision could have the unintended effect of increasing costs on energy consumers.

By potentially expanding CFTC authority beyond that established in the 2000, serious questions have been raised about CEA's scope and construction and the potential impact these new changes may have on energy consumers, investors, and industry participants. As this legislation heads to conference, I urge my colleagues to thoroughly discuss and address these issues and concerns so that we can be confident that our Nation's capital markets remain strong and vibrant.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT TUCKER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor Scott Tucker, of Petaluma, California. On January 1, 2006, Scott will officially retire after 13 years as the San Francisco District Manager, and 38 years with the United States Postal Service. He is the longest serving postal service executive at any major metropolitan area in consecutive years.

Mr. Tucker's career with the United States Postal Service began in 1968 in Hanford, California as a letter carrier. He held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, until in September 1992, he was appointed to his current position as the San Francisco District Manager.

As the District Manager, Scott is responsible on a daily basis for the delivery of approximately 10 million pieces of mail to 3 million customers throughout northwest California that ranges from Sunnyvale in the south to the Oregon Border in the north. He supervises a workforce of 10,400 mail carriers, mail handlers, mail clerks, postmasters, and operations managers. In the North Bay we have grown to approximately 3,000 employees spread throughout 205 postal facilities under Scott's leadership.

The San Francisco postal district has for nine consecutive quarters, under Scott's leadership, received the "Order of Yellow Jersey" award for excellence in customer satisfaction and commitment to professionalism. The district has been repeatedly recognized by IBM's Business Consulting Services Unit, as one of the best on-time mail services for any metropolitan area in the Nation.

In the past 13 years, Scott has helped increase awareness of multicultural groups within the district. Under his leadership, numerous diversity leadership advisory councils were established including the Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Island Council, and the Hispanic Council. The Bay Area Federal Executive Board recognized his efforts and presented him with a diversity leadership achievement award.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we honor Scott Tucker today for the years he has dedicated to consistently improving upon how we all receive our mail. The San Francisco District of the United States Postal Service employees and customers will greatly miss him. He has left some very big shoes to fill.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Franklin Regional High School Panthers Football team for winning the Western Pennsylvanian Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 2005 AAA Championship.

The Panthers have had an excellent season with a record of 14 wins. The team, under the leadership of head coach Greg Botta, have worked incredibly hard in the season, and off season, to earn the title of WPIAL.

The Panthers travel to Central Pennsylvania on December 9, 2005 to battle the Pottsville Area High School Tide for the AAA State Champion title. The game will take place at Hershey Park Stadium at 7 pm.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Franklin Regional High School Varsity Football team. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the determined scholar-athletes, like the Panthers, and their dedicated coaching staff.

PATRIOT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House passed the conference report to H.R. 3199, reauthorizing the Patriot Act. While much has already been said about the national security aspects of this report, I would like to commend my colleagues for including the Combat Meth Act in the report. The meth epidemic is sweeping the nation, and has become a major law enforcement problem in California's 11th District.

All the law enforcement officers I meet with tell me that meth is the number one problem they face today. From manufacturers to dealers, and the attendant social crimes they create, meth is devastating communities across the country. Methamphetamine production and distribution leads to murders, assaults and property crimes. Additionally, there is an associated increase in domestic abuse, prostitution, child abuse and neglect, and homelessness. The provisions included in H.R. 3199 are a positive development in the fight against this scourge.

H.R. 3199 will repeal the so-called "blister pack exemption," which currently allows the sale of unlimited quantities of pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine and other major precursor chemicals in meth production will now be classified as "Schedule Listed Chemicals" with a daily purchase limit of 3.6 grams. These drugs will now be kept in locked cabinets or behind the counter at drug stores and other retailers. These measures will help reduce the manufacture of meth in the United States.

As meth is an international problem, the bill contains provisions for international monitoring, and funding for cooperative efforts with Mexico, a source of much of the meth in California. It also strengthens federal penalties against meth smugglers and traffickers.

Finally, there is language to clarify that employers registered under the Controlled Substances Act may ask prospective employees about prior drug convictions, as a safeguard to ensure that people with access to controlled substances do not pose risks to the public welfare. This clarification is necessary to stop the diversion of drugs from pharmacies for illegal purposes. Currently, in many states, employers are not allowed to ask this critical question.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Methamphetamine Caucus, I applaud the passage of this important language. While we still have a long way to go in the war on meth, this is certainly a step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MEL KING

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Sonny" Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a "grass roots" movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978–1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982–1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996–2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988–1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998–2004. This field has hosted many area tournaments, as well as the local Babe Ruth League games.

Where does this man get the energy to accomplish these feats? I believe it comes from a strong desire to see the young people in his community and around the state have an opportunity to participate and excel in the great game of baseball.

Sonny has been a very valuable member of the Colorado Babe Ruth League, Inc. management team. His good-natured attitude and

"laid back" style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert "Sonny" Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

ON "EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT DEPLORABLY INFRINGED ON PARENTAL RIGHTS IN FIELDS V. PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT."

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today this House considers a resolution to condemn a ruling by a United States Court of Appeals. Whether we agree with the Court's decision or not, the Court returned its decisions based on Constitutional law. A Congressional resolution in reaction to the Palmdale School District's part in the development and use of the survey tool would be the more appropriate role for this Congress. The Palmdale School District, not the Court, failed the parents and students. Parents have the right to a final say in the type of education their child receives and the right to deny their child's participation in surveys and research. Parents can only do so when they are given full and accurate information.

As a Member of Congress, it is my role to create, consider, and vote on legislation. The Court's role is to rule on those laws. I will vote "present" on this resolution before us today because I believe strongly in the separate branches of our government and that Congress oversteps our role by denouncing the Court's decision.

ONE FOR TINA DUBLIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the wedding anniversary of John and Frances Cuellar, a couple from South Texas who has been married for 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, John Cuellar and Frances Gonzales were both born during the Depression and derived great family values from having little to their name. Family, honesty and love have led them to 50 years of happiness. They met while they were independently involved in the Catholic Youth Organization in Cuero, Texas.

After they met, Mr. Cuellar joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to Maryland. The couple wed on Dec. 28, 1955 while John was home

on leave for Christmas. They both moved to Maryland after their marriage to start their lives together.

After his tour in the Navy was over, Mr. Cuellar joined the Texas Highway Department and then transitioned into law enforcement with the Cuero Police Department. At the close of his professional career, he was employed with the U.S. Marshall's office in Victoria, Texas. Mrs. Cuellar worked as a deputy county clerk and is now retired. She is a licensed nurse and prides herself on being so.

The Cuellar's raised four children, John Jr., Mike, Ronnie and Tina. They have fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Texas is honored to have such a fine couple who has served Southern Texas faithfully and diligently.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John and Francis Cuellar and I thank you for this time.

HONORING DOUGLAS W. DODGE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA upon his retirement for his tremendous service to his community. Turlock Police Services will hold an event to honor Captain Dodge on December 15th, 2005.

After returning from service with the United States Army in Vietnam, Douglas Dodge took a position as a reserve officer with the Turlock Police Services in 1973. In September of 1974, he was hired as a full-time Parking Enforcement Officer and worked in this classification for approximately one and one-half years. During this assignment he worked other duties, including property/evidence, dispatch, and identifications for the Investigations Bureau. In February of 1976, he became a full-time sworn police officer and worked patrol and investigations assignments. Over the years he was promoted up through the ranks and in April of 2002 made the rank of Captain.

In 1999, Captain Dodge returned to college to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He is a member of the Stanislaus County Peace Officer's Association and an associate member of the California Police Chief's Association. At present, he serves on the Steering Committees for the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center and the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA for his years of dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Dodge for his tireless efforts and in wishing him many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CARDON AND JOYCE BERRY—2005 MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cardon and Joyce Berry, the 2005 4-

H Meritorious Service Award winners. At the 2005 Kiowa County 4-H Achievement Banquet on Friday, November 4, 2005 the Meritorious Service Award was presented to a couple that believe in the 4-H program and the benefits and opportunities it offers to youth. They were both ten-year 4-H members and have devoted numerous years as leaders. They raised two children who were very active in 4-H and are now assisting their grandchildren who are active members in a local club today.

The Berrys made an important decision to have their children participate in 4-H, knowing how much it had meant in their youth. Cardon grew up in Kiowa County and raised his own family in the same home in which he had lived. The 4-H Club he participated in was no more, but the community had once again found itself with many youngsters. The Berrys helped to reinstate the Prairie Queen 4-H Club for the kids who benefited from the experience.

The Berry family is faithful in attending numerous 4-H activities, and have sponsored many trophies over the years. They are both active in many different civic roles within Kiowa County and they make their community a better place.

I am honored to be representing Cardon and Joyce Berry in the U.S. Congress. Individuals like this make 4-H and the youth who participate a valuable asset to the community. I'm sure Kiowa County will be blessed for many more years because of the selflessness of the Berry family.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and reaffirming Congress's support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I believe strongly that Congress must provide the funding promised nearly 30 years ago for IDEA and that is why I support legislation that would fully fund this commitment to special education. All American children must have access to a free public education in an environment that is appropriate and supportive.

While this resolution today acknowledges the promise to our states and schools to fund IDEA at 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure, it fails to address how far we are from making that goal a reality. This Republican-controlled Congress funds IDEA at less than 20 percent of its promise. We owe it to our students, their families, and our communities to make full funding a reality. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fully fund our commitment to special education.

Because of the efforts of families, teachers, and school administrators across the country, we are, today, able to make the needs of students with disabilities a priority. It is time that

this Congress remembers not only the anniversary, but also the promise and commitment made to families and children. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and to continue to vote in favor of funding our federal responsibility to special education in order to move us forward in our goal to provide an equal, quality education for all students.

ONE FOR DEBUTANT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of The Pals, an organization in San Antonio, Texas that has been helping young black women enter adulthood with more ease and grace through their annual Debutante Ball.

Mr. Speaker, in 1925, four young ladies were meeting weekly for a social game of bridge. One of the women, Vivian Lowery Vincent suggested that they start The Pals. The name derived from the phrase "pleasant attitude toward life." Others soon joined the group, and by 1927, these women envisioned a dream to present young, African American girls approaching adulthood to society. This dream became reality when The Pals hosted the first Debutante Ball in 1928.

The Club members believed that the social life of young Black women in San Antonio would be more secure by having, in their background, the interest of older, caring, dynamic women. They also knew that, in the goal for the perpetuity of African Americans, there was an urgency to preserve "gentility" within the race. Subsequently, The Pals selected and sponsored debutantes to develop and promote social and civic awareness, cultural dignity, pride and sense of self.

In 1979, The Pals were honored by the United Negro College Fund, Inc and presented the Fred D. Patterson Award and in 1992, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc honored The Pals for the organization's outstanding leadership toward the growth and development of the Minority Community of San Antonio. Each year accolades are received from parents, citizens and debutantes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor The Pals for helping young women in our community.

HONORING CHIEF LONALD LOTT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor chief Lott of Turlock, CA upon his retirement for his dedicated service to his community. Turlock Police Services will hold an event to honor Chief Lott on December 15th, 2005.

After serving in the United States Coast Guard, Lott entered law enforcement in 1973 as a reserve police officer for the City of Hayward. A year later, he moved to the Central Valley after having accepted a position as a police officer for the City of Modesto. In

1980, Officer Lott traveled slightly south to the City of Turlock to serve as a police officer. Having demonstrated tremendous leadership, Officer Lott was appointed to the position of Chief of Police in February of 1997.

Chief Lott holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Behavior, a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Chief Lott has held leadership positions in numerous law enforcement organizations, including the California Police Chiefs Association, Stanislaus County Association of Law Enforcement Executives and has served as a member of the Stanislaus County Peace Officers Association, the California Peace Officers Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Lott also serves as a part-time faculty member at California State University-Stanislaus where he teaches courses in Criminal Justice, Management, and Leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Lott of Turlock, CA for his years of dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Lott for his tireless efforts and in wishing him many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MEL KING

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and heroism of Mr. Mel King.

Mr. King served with distinction in the Army Air Corp during the harrowing days of the Second World War. As a B-17 crew member in the 815th Squadron of the 483 Bombardment Group, Mr. King and his fellow crew members played an integral role in the Allied defeat of Nazi Germany.

The crew of the Good Deal formed in November 1943 with Mr. Melbourne King of Crook, CO as one of the thirteen member crew, which included Paul E. Ray, Warren O. Griffin, Carl B. Hardy, Gerald Kramer, Foster F. Knight, James I. Korshak, Walter J. Gladioux, August O. Bresciz, Theodore Engelun, Fred A. Clark, Jr., Robert J. Dalzin, and John M. Spear.

On April 12, 1944 Mr. King and the crew of the Good Deal participated in their first mission to Split, Yugoslavia. In the following months, the crew of the Good Deal saw action over Toulon, Milan, Weiner Neustadt, Vienna, Budapest, Blechhammer, Ploesti, and Memmingen.

Despite the fact that fourteen of twenty-six American B-17s were lost over the German town of Memmingen on July 18, 1944, Mr. King and his crewmates successfully downed seven German fighters.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Mr. King's distinguished service and humbled by his courageous patriotism. The sacrifices he and the men of the Good Deal made to ensure the liberty and freedom of future generations will never be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Melbourne D. Ring and the crew of the Good Deal.

COMMEMORATING THE JAVITS-WAGNER O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Javits-Wagner O'Day program (JWOD) on the service they provide to thousands of individuals.

The JWOD program is the single largest source of employment for individuals who are blind or have severe disabilities. This program employs more than 45,000 people. The JWOD program trains persons with disabilities to acquire job skills that will be resourceful in their everyday lives. With these skills and training, a participant in this program can receive wages and benefits thereby gaining a greater independence and quality of life.

In my district in Georgia, there is a JWOD program named Happy Hour that exemplifies the good work that this organization is built upon. Happy Hour employs 170 disabled individuals and gives them an opportunity to contribute to their communities. Executive Director Steve Smith leads an office of 90-100 hard working staffers along with many volunteers who are all dedicated to ensuring each person reaches a common goal.

Happy Hour has a working relationship with Robins Air Force Base. Through this relationship Happy Hour participants are able to help the government and save tax payers money. A few of the projects that help Robins Air Force Base is Robin's Recycling, respiratory cleaning and repair, tool de numbering, and air craft hardware sorting. Though they may seem minor, without Happy Hour, workers who do these tasks at Robins AFB would have a much harder time operating.

FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill is a very flawed bill which would badly underfund health care, education, and social services critical to all Americans. Although I was unable to vote in favor of the bill, I do want to call attention to one bright spot.

For the first time, the Congress has provided dedicated funding to educate women, their families, and their physicians about the risk factors and early warning signs of gynecologic cancer. Each year, tens of thousands of women die of gynecologic cancers that could have been treated had they been detected earlier. Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, has a survival rate of 80 to 90 percent if detected in Stage One or Stage Two and a survival rate of 20 percent or less in the late stages.

Although only cervical cancer has a screening test reliable enough for routine use on

women without symptoms, gynecologic cancers have clear risk factors and early warning signs. A recent study found that almost 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. That's why public education is key—if women and their doctors know the risk factors and early signs, a specialist can use diagnostic tools to rule out cancer or detect it in the early stages.

I first became aware of the tremendous opportunity for the federal government to save lives when I heard the story of one of my constituents. Johanna Silver Gordon was a health-conscious public school teacher who died of ovarian cancer after being diagnosed in a later stage—leaving friends, family, and students heartbroken that they and she had not known the early warning signs. Unfortunately, her story is all too common. I first heard Johanna's story from her sister, Sheryl, and I introduced legislation to create Johanna's Law, a national public education campaign to eradicate gynecologic cancer death. Thanks to Sheryl's work and that of thousands of other tireless cancer survivors, family members, and physicians, Johanna's Law has the support of a majority of the House of Representatives and provided the inspiration for the language in this bill.

The language in this bill directs the Secretary of HHS and the Office of Women's Health to coordinate their education and outreach efforts on gynecologic cancers into a national public education campaign, focused on early detection. The bill provides \$100,000 in dedicated resources, in addition to the resources HHS already has for cancer education. It is a small but important first step toward ensuring that what happened to Johanna does not happen to other women. I commend the conferees for its inclusion, and hope we can work in a bipartisan fashion to build upon this effort.

I also want to commend my colleagues, DARRELL ISSA, ROSA DELAURO, and KAY GRANGER, who have worked tirelessly with me to promote Johanna's Law and raise awareness of gynecologic cancers. I hope we can continue to work together to build on this start.

URGING OBSERVANCE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. I further urge all Americans to share in this commemoration to have a greater appreciation for the role the Jewish American community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.

In 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam, now New York City. America welcomed Jews among the millions of immigrants that streamed through our Nation's gates. The waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in America helped shape our great Nation.

Jewish immigration to America throughout the last 350 years brought with it legions of notable researchers, lawyers, statesmen, inventors, entertainers, artists, scientists, authors, musicians, doctors, ethicists, entrepreneurs and spiritual leaders—men and women who substantially transformed this nation and its urban communities.

In this month of observance of American Jewish history, I think it is also important that we also focus on our country's relationship with Israel. Israel has been one of our strongest and most committed allies since its conception in 1948. For 50 years, the United States and Israel have worked closely to pursue peace in the Middle East. I strongly believe that the dream of peace and stability in the Middle East can become a reality within our lifetime.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution and urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. A proclamation by the President will honor the contributions of American Jews throughout our nation's history, but also reiterate the continued importance of our taking an active role in the peace process in the Middle East. We have both an obligation and a vested interest in supporting Israel in its road to secure itself in peaceful, stable, and democratic region. I will leave you with a quote from one of the most famous Jewish American immigrants, Albert Einstein. He said "He who cherishes the values of culture cannot fail to be a pacifist." Let's urge the President to reaffirm the value of the Jewish American Culture to the United States, and in doing so take one small step towards peace in the region.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE KAITSA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Kaitsa for his dedication to public service as he prepares to return to private life.

Mr. Kaitsa has a record of dedicated public service as a Member of Council and leader for Powell, Ohio. I am certain that his foresight and commitment to building a brighter future for the citizens of Powell will continue to inspire others. Providing Powell with the best representation and leadership possible has always been George's goal, and his service in office and commitment to his constituents over the years ensures his legacy will continue to be felt far into the future.

Thank you, George, for your service. Please allow me to join your friends and family in wishing you good health and prosperity.

WOOD CHIP CO-GENERATION SYSTEM TO HEAT AND POWER VERMONT HOSPITAL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you some information regarding a

bold new system that will help a small hospital in my state save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in energy costs, while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollutants.

North Country Hospital in Newport, Vermont, has instituted an ingenious heating and electricity co-generation system that utilizes biomass wood chips instead of traditional heating oil as its fuel source. It is believed to be the first use of such technology in any hospital in the country. At today's energy prices, this new biomass gasification system could save the hospital as much as \$328,000 annually in energy costs.

In addition to providing heat for the hospital complex, the process heats water from the chips into steam, which not only provides a supplemental source of electricity, but will produce the hospital's hot water and also help operate other critical equipment within the hospital, such as sterilization equipment, dishwashers and clothes dryers.

Energy cost savings realized by this environmentally sound energy choice will save the hospital, and hence its patients, substantial money that can be better directed toward critical healthcare services. This system provides an innovative example to hospitals and other public buildings in Vermont, across the country, and throughout the world.

Already, business people, government officials and hospital administrators from other regions are touring the new facility with an eye toward implementing such a system themselves. A company in Spain is designing a system based on North Country's model, with the exception that it will actually burn tomato vines instead of wood chips as its energy source. Surely, a system so versatile has tremendous potential to be effectively used far and wide.

Wood chips are a renewable source of energy, which recycles carbon that already exists in the natural carbon cycle; meaning no new carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere from this biomass energy source. Wood chips are supplied from within Vermont; hence money spent on wood chips stays in the local economy and supports jobs in the area's forest products industry. For buildings 50,000 sq. ft. and larger, fuel cost savings likely more than offset capital financing costs and additional maintenance staff time requirements; hence, in many cases, a system can pay for itself in 5 to 10 years.

I enthusiastically commend the Board of Trustees at North Country Hospital and their innovative staff, especially Larry Labor, Steve Wolff and Terry Robbins, for taking energy matters into their own hands and raising the bar for how local leadership can have national and international significance and positive impact. Each of them deserves high praise for their efforts. They have given us a sterling example of how American hospitals can save substantial money on energy costs, help improve environmental conditions related to heat

and energy production, and help support their local job markets in the process. I encourage other hospitals and institutions in Vermont and across the country to study the potential of this new system for their own facilities and to duplicate it where appropriate.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY KIRKSEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Kirksey, former Mississippi State Senator, veteran proponent of civil rights and retired Tougaloo College professor.

Henry Kirksey personified the face of bravery. He was the lead plaintiff in most of the redistricting cases brought in Mississippi to bring the state into compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Mississippi was a dangerous place to do so. This was instrumental in opening the door to the creation of fair redistricting plans throughout the State. In 1965, Kirksey filed suit against the State, challenging county-wide election of State Representatives and Senators. That suit resulted in the adoption of single-member legislative districts in 1979.

We blacks elected in the State of Mississippi today owe that election more so to Henry Kirksey than anyone else. As a result of Kirksey's sacrifice, Mississippi today appears to have more African American elected and appointed officials at every level of government than any other State in the Nation. Kirksey's service as a plaintiff, expert witness and community organizer has led to the election of almost 600 African-Americans to public office in Mississippi. As part of this process, Kirksey became the first African American elected to the Mississippi Senate since Reconstruction.

He became known for filing the lawsuit that led to Jackson changing its form of government in 1985 to the mayor-seven-member council system. He also was a member of the group that fought for reapportionment changes in the late 1970s that led to a record number of black candidates being elected to the Legislature. Kirksey was instrumental in challenging the districts from which state court judges ran, resulting in more diversity on the bench.

As a noted map-maker, Kirksey was significant to the formation of Mississippi's majority-black 2nd Congressional District, which I have the distinct pleasure of representing today.

I applaud the life and legacy of Henry Kirksey.

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our military forces need and deserve ample resources and superior technological capabilities to remain strong, which requires ongoing de-

velopment efforts by both the public and private sector.

In fact, some of the military's most innovative technologies are being developed by small companies. Two examples are in the 10th District of Texas, with each of these Austin-based companies developing a technology with significant military value. To accelerate the availability of these new technologies for military applications, I have recommended that funding support be included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2006.

One of the technologies is a unique 3-D holographic imaging system developed by Zebra Imaging, which will soon be deployed by the Army in Iraq for intelligence and operational uses. The \$2.25 million requested for this technology would advance the current non-portable imaging system to a field deployable unit for combat forces, with this capability available within 24 months. Army intelligence and operational units have urged the acceleration of this development effort because of the strategic and tactical value to combat troops, which the requested funding seeks to achieve.

The second technology is in the field of micro-electronics and involves RF MEMS switches and relays under development by TeraVista Technologies. These micro devices, which provide enormous advances in the size, capabilities and performance of military electronics, are key to achieving faster and more powerful network communications, radar and satellite systems. The \$2.25 million requested will accelerate TeraVista's development work, specifically supporting a program to bring RF MEMS switches to a production-ready status and available for a variety of military applications.

These two technologies are recognized within the military as crucial developments, and I hope the Defense Appropriators provide the necessary funding to quickly bring them to operational use.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN PERMA- NENT, SELF-CLEANING AIR FIL- TERS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a new technology in permanent, self-cleaning air filters for military vehicles operating in high-dust environments, such as in the Middle East.

A company in my district, Signature Science LLC, and its partners are proposing to adapt, integrate and fully test a new self-cleaning air filter technology developed for military vehicles that will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars annually by eliminating the cost of disposable air filters in addition to reducing maintenance costs of vehicle engines. Diesel engines on military vehicles currently use disposable air filters that require frequent changes to protect engines from the damage caused by dusty environments. In Iraq for example, these filters must be replaced after as little as 16 hours of use on some vehicles operating there.

Signature Science's technology for a permanent, self-cleaning air filter will save American

tax dollars while avoiding logistical problems for the military such as operational burdens, decreased fuel efficiency and increased security risks.

For these reasons we need to advance this technology beyond the research phase in the very near term, and I believe that the Defense Appropriators would be serving the national interest by funding the development and testing of these air-filter prototypes for our military vehicles.

H.R. 4550, THE NATIONAL HEPATITIS B ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act. Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania and I have partnered in this bipartisan effort to address the needs of Americans afflicted with chronic Hepatitis B.

Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious public health concern here in the United States and worldwide. The Hepatitis B vaccine is the most effective way to prevent chronic Hepatitis B and its deadly implications of liver cancer and liver failure. Yet, vaccination rates remain low and Hepatitis B is one of the most commonly reported vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S.

Chronic Hepatitis B is often called a "silent disease" because more than two-thirds of those infected with Hepatitis B have no recognized symptoms. Without appropriate screening and management of the disease, one in four Hepatitis B carriers dies from liver cancer or liver disease. Early detection reduces the likelihood that the virus is unknowingly transmitted to others. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize the symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage or have already passed it on.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned because Hepatitis B is one of the greatest health disparities affecting the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are chronically infected with the Hepatitis B virus.

We all have constituents affected by this disease. More importantly, we have the ability to stop the spread of this disease. Last May, I was pleased by the strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the resolutions supporting National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. We also had tremendous bipartisan interest in the Hepatitis B "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21, 2005.

We know that there is hope. We have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better shot at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that needs to be done. We need to increase public education about Hepatitis B, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, raise awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic Hepatitis B, and help increase the length and quality of life

for those diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. We need to improve state-by-state tracking of trends, incidences and prevalence of chronic Hepatitis B.

I urge all my colleagues to come together to prioritize this public health issue and support H.R. 4550.

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENT-HEADED AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, there are more than six million grandparent-headed and other relative-headed households in the United States. In my home state of New York, 9 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. These relatives have opened their hearts and homes to children who can no longer, for a variety of reasons, live with their parents. During this holiday season, I would like to recognize these relatives for providing safety, shelter, food, and love. Their kindness and generosity is acknowledge. I extend my most sincere appreciation for the selflessness these families demonstrate and note that their selflessness provides a benefit not only to the children under their care but also to the community at large.

HONORING CAREY HOBBS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mr. Carey Hobbs. I have had the pleasure of knowing Carey Hobbs for more than 20 years. He is a man who loves his country and cares deeply about his community. He is selfless and unassuming. He is a dedicated family man and a devoted Christian, and I am very proud to call him my friend.

Following his graduation from high school in Abilene, Texas, Carey Hobbs began his life-long association with Texas Tech University as an undergraduate student. After earning his degree, Carey Hobbs joined the military in 1958 and received a commission in the United States Marine Corps. During his five years of active duty, he flew jet fighters and also served as a test pilot.

Over the course of his professional career, Carey Hobbs has become a successful small business owner and a leader in the textile industry. He is a true entrepreneur, who has helped drive innovation and job creation. Since 1972, he has been the President and CEO of Hobbs Bonded Fibers in Waco, Texas. He holds several patents and has served on board of directors for both the National Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry and the National Cotton Batting Institute. For eight years, he was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Industry Sector Advisory Committee for Trade Policy Matters for Textiles and Apparel. In 1988, Carey Hobbs

was named Small Business Person of the Year for the Dallas District.

Through the years, Carey Hobbs has remained a steadfast supporter of his alma mater, Texas Tech University, and higher education in Texas. He has served on the Texas Tech Board of regents and was President of the Texas Tech Alumni Association National Board of Directors. He has also dedicated his time to enriching higher education through his service on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and as a participant in Texas A&M University's Visiting Executive Program.

Carey Hobbs is an important and positive role for the youth of Texas. He is an active member of the Stonegate Community Church in Waco. He serves on the board of World Hunger Relief and the International Medical Education Foundation, which is working to build a hospital in the Ukraine. Carey Hobbs is also a devoted family man. He and his wife Brenda have five children: Larry, Terri, Angela, Andy and Cindy.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas and a longtime friend of Carey Hobbs, it is my honor to recognize him for his outstanding achievements in business and in life. Carey Hobbs has truly made his community and his country a better place.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Texas State University Football Team that made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Division 1-AA playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, Texas State University, which is located in San Marcos, Texas, represented their school with tremendous pride and ability. The Bobcats finished the season with an 11-3 record and a Southland Conference championship, their first conference championship since 1983.

In only his second year, Head Coach David Bailiff and staff have taken the Bobcats from a good record in 2004 to a great one in 2005. Coach Bailiff and his staff will attempt to bring the national championship to San Marcos next year, a title that would be a restoration of the powerful tradition of Division II national championships in prior years.

Texas State football players have made their school proud off the field as well. Several players have spent time in area San Marcos elementary schools mentoring the children in the community. The team was also honored to have six student-athletes named to the conference's All-Academic team, a testament to the dedication the coaches and players have to achieve in the classroom as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Texas State's outstanding football season and I thank you for this time.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA CONACCHIO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Conacchio, who will be honored by the Queens Board of Elections on January 26, 2006 for her 25 years of dedicated service.

Barbara's career with the Queens Board of Elections began in January of 1981, when she was hired as a temporary employee. Less than a week later, realizing what a great asset Barbara was, the Board of Elections offered her a permanent position. Seven years later, in 1988, the Board once again recognized her outstanding work and promoted Barbara to Administrative Assistant, where she performed masterfully. In June of 1991, she was appointed as Chief Clerk of the Queens Board of Elections. Over the past fourteen years, Barbara has held this post with remarkable poise, leadership and distinction.

Despite her hectic career, Barbara has voluntarily served our community through a number of organizations. She is a Past-President of the Knights of Columbus—General Father Sherman Shine Columbiettes, a member of the Queens Historical Society, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Mitchell Gardens Co-op.

While Barbara has had a distinguished and praiseworthy career at the Board of Elections, and is celebrated as a community leader, her family—her husband of 30 years, Ronald, along with her two daughters, Amanda and Lisa, and two granddaughters, Brianna and Tiffani—remains the source of her greatest pride and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise to commend Barbara Conacchio. The accolades bestowed upon her for the 25 years of outstanding service she has given to the Queens Board of Elections are entirely deserved. I know all my colleagues in the House will join me in honoring Barbara for her outstanding work and wishing her many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DORENA KNEPPER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my California colleague Howard "Buck" McKeon to honor a talented individual, Dorena Knepper, on the occasion of her retirement as director of Government Affairs at California State University, Northridge. Due in no small part to Dorena's hard work, guidance and support, CSUN has become one of the largest and most prominent universities in the California State University system.

Just last year we congratulated Dorena upon the celebration of her 40 years of public service at CSUN. During her impressive tenure, Dorena has made an exceptional contribution both to the university and to the greater community. Working with her on Federal appropriations and other legislative

issues, I have been impressed by her dedication and efficacy. Few individuals are as deserving of recognition.

Dorena's 40 years of service speak volumes about her personal investment in, and dedication to, the CSUN community. Dorena began her relationship with the university as a student at what was then San Fernando Valley State College. Dorena has been employed at CSUN since 1964. Beginning in 1972, she held a variety of positions in the Office of the President, including 16 years as executive assistant for former President James Cleary. Her career in governmental relations began in 1982 when she dealt primarily with community inquiries. Today, as director of Governmental Affairs, Dorena oversees the seamless operation of CSUN's local, State, and Federal Government relations.

Dorena is equally comfortable whether working with national leaders, students, staff, or community members. She is a leader on campus, serving on and chairing diverse faculty, administrative, staff and student committees. She also deals effectively with the concerns of the local community. This dexterity was evidenced by her work during the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. The Earthquake hit the University hard, causing extensive damage throughout the campus. Dorena coordinated visits from local and national leaders to help them survey the damage and plan the recovery. She arranged a campus visit by President Clinton on the first anniversary of the earthquake. That presidential visit brought national attention to the importance of CSUN as a vital center of higher education in the Los Angeles area and helped promote the recovery.

Active in numerous business groups, including three chambers of commerce and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, she also is a legislative advocate for two nonprofit charitable associations.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. McKEON and me in honoring Dorena Knepper, a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career to CSUN, its students and to promoting higher education and civic service in the San Fernando Valley. We all wish her a fulfilling retirement.

URGING MORE AID TO PAKISTAN FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the growing tragedy in Kashmir, a northern region of Pakistan located along the Indian border. In early October of this year, an earthquake devastated that area, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving millions more homeless. Each passing day brings new heartbreak to that remote region as exposure, illness, and famine continue to wreak havoc on the population. These people are desperate, and they need our help.

The earthquake's epicenter hit Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, and registered a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. For comparison, the 1989 earthquake that hit San Francisco had a magnitude of 7.1

and its epicenter was more than 70 miles away. The Pakistani Government has reported that at least 73,000 people have died, 15,000 they believe to be school children. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank reported in their assessment after the quake that at least 3.5 million people have been displaced, and that another 1.6 million are without adequate food supplies.

This mountainous region of Pakistan lies at the foothills of the great Himalayan Mountains. The area receives as much as 10 feet of snow during the winter months, and nighttime temperatures can easily drop to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. As winter quickly approaches, the severe potential for further catastrophe grows for the millions of homeless Pakistanis living in makeshift tent communities.

Mr. Speaker, the earthquake that devastated the capital city and surrounding communities disastrously separated brother from sister, parent from child, and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of countless families. International aid organizations have speculated that the tragedy of the quake's aftermath could surpass that of the tsunami that struck just months earlier given the region's severe climate, remoteness, and the shortfall of international assistance. Without immediate action by the international community, thousands more will surely perish.

The World Bank estimates that \$5.2 billion will be needed to adequately rebuild the region and care for the quake's victims. The Bush administration has provided \$50 million in emergency assistance and pledged another \$150 million; however, more is needed. For this reason I have written to President Bush requesting that he double his request to Congress, and provide \$300 million towards Pakistani reconstruction.

The United States and Pakistan have long worked together, and jointly we are fighting the ongoing war on terror. In addition, additional aid from our country would send a signal to other nations that the United States stands ready to help in times of need. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the House to strongly support measures that would send additional aid to help alleviate the suffering the Pakistani people.

STATEMENT ON REMOVING NAME FROM H.J. RES. 73

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 73, a resolution introduced by my friend and colleague Rep. JACK MURTHA calling for the rapid withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

In short, my name was added in error. But I'd like to take this opportunity to explain why I cannot support Mr. MURTHA's resolution at this time.

Rep. MURTHA's call for the rapid redeployment of U.S. forces carries significant weight in Congress because he is not only a decorated veteran, but also one of the most respected voices in our country on military and national security policy.

Like Rep. MURTHA, I believe the Bush administration has largely failed in Iraq because the civilian direction of the war has not matched the skill and sacrifice of our soldiers. Going to war the way we did was a strategic mistake, and the aftermath has been a failure because of the president's refusal to plan and refusal to listen.

Unlike Mr. MURTHA, I voted against the resolution authorizing the president to rush to war in the first place. I did so because I had concerns about the president's refusal to consider more aggressive inspections of WMD before going to war, his inability to secure greater international support, his obvious failure to develop a plan for securing peace after ousting Saddam, and his reckless disregard of experienced military advice.

Although I was an outspoken opponent of going to war in Iraq, I have supported our brave soldiers because it has seemed to me that our national security is now linked, like it or not, to a credible plan for stabilizing Iraq and preventing a catastrophic civil war in the region.

I remain concerned about setting an arbitrary date for withdrawal because how we leave is as important as when we leave. Nevertheless, Mr. MURTHA's call, coupled with the evaporation of public confidence in the president's management of the war, should be a wake-up call to the president to develop a strategy that can garner bipartisan support and set an unmistakable path toward exiting Iraq expeditiously and with our interests and security intact.

This country cannot have 535 commanders-in-chief. There can only be one commander-in-chief, and we need him to better explain his strategy and to be honest with the American people about the costs and timetable for executing that strategy.

We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful outcome in Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate recently passed with overwhelming bipartisan support a resolution requiring accountability by the president in Iraq. The House should, at a minimum, do the same.

IN MEMORY OF HANK GROVER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a great Texan, Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover, a man of singular vision and integrity. Born of humble roots in Corpus Christi, Texas, and raised in San Antonio during the Great Depression, Hank understood what it was to be humble and poor.

The middle child of eight, Hank was raised with solid grounding in those values Americans hold dear. His mother was a German immigrant, and his father was a descendent of Irish roots. Hank was a sixth generation Texan, whose family predated even the Republic of Texas. His great-great grandfather was the first European doctor on Texas soil, and his studies of Kickapoo medicine are archived in The University of Texas library. His

ancestor was a Minuteman in the Revolutionary War. His great uncle fought at San Jacinto. Another great uncle was a founder of Lawrence, Kansas, and ran an underground railroad out of his barn. Hank's father was a childhood friend of Jesse James and Harry S. Truman, in Independence, Kansas.

With this family background, it is no surprise that Hank studied history as an undergraduate at the University of Saint Thomas and received his master's degree from the University of Houston. He taught history at Lamar High School in the 1950s, where he had such a profound effect on his students that many entered public service, becoming attorneys, judges and legislators. His students encouraged him to run for office, and he first stood for the Texas House in 1959 and was first elected in 1961. He served three terms as a Democrat in the Texas House, then switched to the Republican Party in 1965, a radical move in Texas at that time, and won three more terms as Senator from District 15.

In 1972 Hank ran for governor of Texas and came within 200,000 votes of victory—an amazing accomplishment in a state that had not elected a Republican Governor since Reconstruction. Hank's race helped strengthen the Republican Party in Texas and set the stage for Republican Mark White to be elected Governor. He also was the largest private contributor in the effort to elect Ronald Regan as President in 1980.

Hank believed deeply in limited government and fiscal responsibility. He sought to limit federal power and to rein in deficit spending both at the state and federal level. His was a moral and ethical view, grounded in the history and culture of America. Hank also was devoted to his family—his wonderful wife of 56 years, Kathleen Downey Grover, and his children, Bernard Downey, Bridget Cushing, Joseph Courtney, Hilary Helen, Laetitia Jane, and Patrick Fleming (who served on my staff).

Mr. Speaker, as we complete the Nation's business today, let us do so in honor and in memory of this great American who dedicated his life to upholding the values on which America was founded and whose legacy will live on through his family, his friends and the many students whose lives he influenced. Let us pay our last respects to Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover.

COMMENDING U.S. COAST GUARD
OPERATIONS POST-HURRICANE
KATRINA

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those applauding the outstanding disaster response work of the U.S. Coast Guard.

My district is fortunate to host one of the Nation's three Coast Guard highly trained oil spill and hazmat response teams, the Pacific Strike Team located at Hamilton Field in Novato. We are also proud of Coast Guard training center Petaluma, located in the rural Two Rock area. Men and Women from both bases had important roles in the aftermath of Katrina.

For the Pacific Strike Team, quick response to emergencies is normal operating procedure. On the night of August 29, Commander Anthony Lloyd and a dozen or so members of the team flew out of California to join the two other units of the National Strike Force at the forward operating base in Alexandria. In the following weeks they participated in the largest oil cleanup spill since the Exxon Valdez, containing oil spills from 8 or 9 refineries on the Mississippi and the Gulf. With oil spill cleanup almost completed, the Pacific Strike Team has joined the Louisiana environmental officials and the U.S. EPA in an effort to remove hazmat materials scattered along Louisiana's broad coastal zone. To date this unified command, combing the wetlands and bayous, have collected about 1 million commercial 55 gallon drums.

In an emergency, the Coast Guard also relies on its personnel stationed at bases and at sea . . . everyone lends a hand.

Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, commanded by Captain Brian Marvin, is no exception. Nine Two Rock coasties have recently returned from a 30 day rotation in the Gulf where they performed a variety of duties which exemplify the diverse mission of the Coast Guard. Two chaplains helped with spiritual support and stress management both for hurricane victims and responders; a doctor helped to mend bodies at a relief center in New Orleans; an officer was sent to be in charge of a relief boat command and control center; another officer was sent as a planner; two petty officers served in law enforcement, repairing aids to navigation and participating in search and rescue operations; and another petty officer conducted incident debriefings and helped develop support systems for personnel out in the field.

All these activities were conducted with the highest professionalism, dedication, and compassion—Coast Guard hallmarks. They deserve the highest praise and ongoing support for their mission.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199,
USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, four years ago I voted against the bill that became the "USA PATRIOT Act," more commonly called simply the "PATRIOT Act."

I agreed that our law-enforcement agencies needed increased power and more tools to fight terrorists. But I also thought then—and still think today—it was imperative for Congress to proceed carefully in order to protect Americans' civil liberties. However, I took some comfort from the fact that a number of the most troublesome provisions of the new law were temporary and would expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts to renew them.

The imminent expiration of those provisions is why the House considered this legislation in July, and provides the impetus for the conference report before us today.

I think the value of such "sunset" provisions is shown by the debate on that bill and today's debate on the conference report. It is evidence that requiring Congressional action to renew agencies' authorities can and does result in ongoing Congressional oversight and periodic reconsideration.

In July, I voted against the bill because it would have made permanent no fewer than 14 of the 16 provisions of the original "Patriot Act" that were covered by the law's "sunset" clause—as well as other new authorities provided by last year's bill to reform the intelligence community—and under the bill the other two would not have faced a "sunset" for a full 10 years.

However, at the same time I noted that there was considerable support in the other body—by Senators on both sides of the aisle—for provisions that would improve on this legislation. And I hoped and expected that once the Senate had acted and the conference was completed, the result would be a measure that deserves the support of all Members of Congress.

Unfortunately, after careful review I have concluded that this conference report, while an improvement over the bill the House passed in July, is still so seriously flawed that I cannot support it.

The conference report does not do enough to reduce the potential that the authority it gives to the FBI and other agencies could be abused or misused in ways that intrude on Americans' privacy and civil liberties—a potential that has led more than 300 communities and seven States, including Colorado—governments representing over 62 million people—to pass resolutions opposing parts of the Patriot Act.

The Senate, to its credit, did a better job than the House in responding to the concerns that prompted such resolutions, while still providing ample tools that the government can use to work against the threat of more terrorist attacks, at home and abroad.

I could have supported enactment of the bill as passed by the Senate. That is why I voted for the motion to recommit. But I cannot support this conference report as it stands.

COMMENDING WWII VETERAN
HARRY THOMPSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Harry A. Thompson, a veteran of World War II and a WWII Prisoner of War. Harry is a longtime resident Wolfe City, Texas, and for the past fifty years has been working on his memoirs of his experience as a POW in Germany. His book, entitled Patton's Ill-Fated Raid, relates how he fell into enemy hands on the second day of the Battle of the Bulge and the events that transpired thereafter.

Chief Warrant Officer Harry Thompson was a Battalion Personnel Officer assigned to the 924th Field Artillery Battalion of the 99th Infantry Division in Bullingen, Belgium, when the German Army broke through the American lines during the Battle of the Bulge, and he was captured. He was taken to Hammelburg,

the German POW camp for American officers where General Patton's son-in-law also was being held. As a result of the ill-fated raid to liberate the POWs in Hammelburg, all POWs were evacuated from camp and were forced to walk a treacherous journey of 241 miles in subzero weather across Germany before their liberation on May 2, 1945.

Mr. Thompson's account of his harrowing experiences at Hammelburg and during this long march is a sobering reminder to readers of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. In his introduction he wrote, "The fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge has passed. World War II seems ancient history to my grandchildren as much as the Civil War seemed to me when I was growing up. This narrative is for my family as much as for the public, a memoir of a horrible time, the likes of which I hope they will never have to live."

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend Harry Thompson for publishing his memoirs. He says that he hopes that other Veterans and POWs will share their stories and "that together we can record what it is for America to be at war, what it is to serve in the armed Forces of the United States of America and, after service during wartime, what it means to salute the flag as well as why we, as Veterans, sometimes have a tear or two when we see a patriotic ceremony or parade."

Harry Thompson has served our Nation in two important ways—by his service and sacrifice during World War II, and by the publication of his book that will be part of the history of America for all to read. I am honored to pay tribute today in the House of Representatives to this great American and Veteran of World War II and to thank him for his service to our Nation.

TO RECOGNIZE THE DEDICATION
OF FORT FILLMORE, NEW MEX-
ICO IN HONOR OF FIRST LIEU-
TENANT JOHN SALOPEK

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of Fort Fillmore, New Mexico in honor of First Lieutenant John

Salopek, as celebrated in the biography by Gerald Carson, "Big John", or 1Lt John Salopek, to whom Fort Fillmore is being dedicated today, was born on September 17, 1921 in Croatia. At age eight, he arrived in the United States, settling in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Salopek received a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) commission in June 1944. He was assigned to a platoon leader position in 1st Platoon, Company G of the infamous 42nd "Rainbow" Division, 7th US Army. Salopek's unit arrived in Marseille, France in December, 1944. The unit fought in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign near Gernsheim, France. On January 5, 1945, Salopek's platoon was attacked by German panzers, and most were taken prisoner of war (POW) the next day. Salopek was taken to a headquarters command post of the elite Waffen-Schutztaffel (SS). Later, Salopek was transferred to Hammelburg Offizierlager XIIIIB (Oflag) POW camp of 1,500 officers, to include the son of Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin and the son-in-law of General Patton. On March 26, 1945, General Patton ordered Task Force Baum to Hammelburg to rescue the pawns. Only 300 of the 1,500 were rescued, to include 1LT Salopek. Two days later, Task Force Baum was captured by Germans. Most were either killed or again taken POW. Salopek evaded capture and fled to a German farm house near Richenbuch, where he remained until American troops liberated the Hammelburg POW camp on April 5, 1945. The following year, 1LT Salopek, returned to his family's farm in Mesilla, New Mexico.

Salopek's father left over 300 acres of pecan farms to John in the Las Cruces area. Salopek spent the remainder of his life working his land.

1LT Salopek was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze, and Purple Heart for action in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign. He died on April 15, 2002."

TRIBUTE TO LATE JIM DUFF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor James "Jim"

Duff, a constituent from Rialto, California who passed away on December 11, 2005. I cannot begin to express how saddened I am by the passing of my friend Jim. All men die, but not all men really live; we can honestly say that Jim lived to the fullest. He was a model citizen, veteran, community leader, father, grandfather, and an extraordinary man.

Jim Duff was born and raised in Bonham, Texas but lived in Rialto, California for many years until his passing. Jim was a remarkable example of courage and sacrifice. He joined the Air Force and fought in World War II and Vietnam. Jim was a dedicated soldier who risked his life in the line of duty. For instance he was part of Project Ivy, the famous first test of a hydrogen bomb at the Eniwetok atoll. Nevertheless, one of his proudest accomplishments was Operation Fiddles, an effort to deliver food to innocent victims of war.

After 25 years of service in the military, Jim retired in 1970 to enjoy retirement with his lovely wife of 55 years, Mrs. Doris Duff. Jim and Doris met in Bonham, Texas where they grew up and went to school together. Aside from Doris, his sister Mary Fae Kamm, his son Bobby Douglas Duff, and two grandchildren. Sequoia and Madrone, survive Jim. His dedication and courage live in his family; his son is a successful business owner in Duncanville, Texas and his deceased daughter Carol D-Lynn lost her life while rescuing her children from a dangerous riptide.

Since retiring from the Air Force, Jim had become a fixture of the community. He was Commander of Post 8737 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for fourteen years and held office within the organization at the statewide and national level, even serving as National VFW Post American Commander. In the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he dedicated himself to help fellow veterans by volunteering twice a week without fail at Loma Linda Veterans Hospital. Jim helped veterans fill out paperwork, file claims, and fight for the health care rights they deserve. I knew him well as a member of my Veterans Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore wish to offer the condolences of a grateful Nation to the family of Mr. James Duff, an irreplaceable man who will not be forgotten.